

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. It is believed that the amendments overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art figures of 2a-2d of the present application in view of Koivunen (US 5,281,190).

As set forth in the specification, the present invention is a significant improvement over the prior art as shown in Figs. 2a-2d and the description in the specification directed thereto. In the prior art of Figs. 2a-2d, oil flows radially outwardly from the oil space 31 as a result of centrifugal force caused by rotational movement. Oil is directed through the channels 29.1, 29.2, 29.3 and 29.4 and into the friction pack. The clutch hub 22 is provided with a radially inwardly directed oil collecting or retaining ring 30 which assists in guiding the oil to the oil channels and into the friction pack 23. However, the excess oil flowing outwardly from the space 31 as the result of such centrifugal force flows around and overflows the collecting ring 30, bypassing it to the clutch. See page 16, lines 10 and 11.

In contrast, under the present invention, the cooling oil space 11 is closed at contact point A3 adjacent the oil supply channels 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, and 9.4. As a result, the oil is forced to flow directly into such oil supply channels and an evasion by greater oil volume is no longer possible. See page 16, lines 17-19. This is a significant improvement over the prior art as described with reference to Figs. 2a-2d and over Koivunen. Although Koivunen shows a balanced piston 40 and an apply piston 28, there is no teaching or suggestion in Koivunen, whether taken alone or in combination with the prior art described with respect to Figs. 2a-2d, of providing contact means for preventing the flow of oil from the cooling oil space to anyplace except through the oil channels 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, and 9.4 to the friction pack

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3. It would have been unobvious to a person skilled in the art and having knowledge of the above-described prior art to conceive the invention as set forth in claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and those dependent thereon, namely, claims 2-7, are patentable over the prior art.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of claims 1-7 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Attachments

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Amendments to the Drawings:

Please amend the drawings as set forth in the enclosed drawings. A set of drawings showing the specific changes is also enclosed.

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1-2, replace the original sheet including Fig. 1-2. In Figure 2, previously omitted element 13 has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

Fig. 1a)







